THE HISTORY OF EDWARD, The Black Prince;

Son of EDWARD III. of *England*.

Together with

The CONQUEST of FERANCE.

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The HISTORY of Edward, the Black Prince.

CHAP. I.

The French King ſends for Homage to Edward III. for the Palace the Engliſh held in France; he refuſes it, and lays Claim to the French Crown; he enters into Alliance with the neighbouring Princes, and invades him with a powerful Army.—His Love for the Counteſs of Salisbury; and the Riſe of the Order of the Garter.

KING Edward III, in his father's life-time, took upon him the Title of King of England, when but fifteen years of age; and from a martial ſpirit promiſed great things to the world, having already ſubdued Scotland, and brought it to his own terms.

Philip the French King began to miſtruſt his growing greatneſs, therefore, in order to put a checque upon his valour

he ſent to demand homage from him, for the province of Guyon, held by him in France; which he not only refuſed, but laid claim to the crown, as coming to him in right of his mother Queen Iſabella, being nephew to Charles IV. brother to the ſaid Iſabella. This the French oppoſed, and war was proclaimed; the King quartering the arms of France with thoſe of England,—This being a weighty matter, the King craved the advice of the Earl of Hanault, father of his queen, who with his brother procured King Edward the Vicar-Generalſhip of the Empire; ſo that without being controuled, he might command the people of thoſe counties to further his purpoſe in the intended war.

Though theſe things were carried on privately, yet the King of France had notice of what was doing; and recalled the army which he had ſent againſt the Turks and Saracens, to defend his own country. Edward in the mean time ſo ſettled his affairs, that in the ſpring he landed with an army of 27000 men in France, which brought terror to the country; though the French King had an army of 60,000 ſoldiers to oppoſe him, being accompanied

with three Kings, five Dukes, twenty-six Earls, and above four hundred Lords and Knights. Both armies drawing into the field, and approachiug each other, as the bloody blaſt was about to be ſounded, by the mediation of Jane Counteſs of Hanalt ſiſter to King Philip, and mother to Ed-

ward's queen, ſeparated from each other without ſtriking a blow, to the great diſcontent of the Engliſh, who full of true valour and courage, thirſted to begin the battle.

King Edward now laid aſide his pretenſions; but hearing the French King had ſent out a great fleet, who moleſted and robbed the Engliſh merchants, and greatly obſtructed the trade of the kingdom, he reſolved to revenge this inſolent

action, eſpecially as he reknoned them ae his ſubjects; ſo he fitted out a large fleet, and attacked their whole army with ſuch courage, that after a long and bloody fight, very few of their ſhips eſcaped, but

were either taken, burnt, or ſunk by the Engliſh, with but very inconſiderable loſs on our ſide.—This great ſea victory diſcouraged the French, and greatly encouraged the Engliſh; ſo that the King

landed at Suice in triumph, from whence he went to Gaunt, where lay his queen and the Black Prince, accompanied by many Nobles and a large army.

With this army he beſieged the city of Tournay, which gallantly defended itſelf for ten wheks, without the French King once appearing to relieve it; however, by the mediation of Jane de Vallois, mother to the queen of England, a truce was concluded; but that expiring, ſoon after theſe frivulous delays, the war began in earneſt,

After theſe tranſactions the King returned home to beat the Scots out of England, who had in his abſence invaded it, under the leading of David their King; but in his way fell in love with the Counteſs of Salisbury, whom he had delivered from the ſiege laid to her caſtle of Roxborough; he amorouſly wooing her, ſhe prudently and ſharply denied him; upon which he diſcontentedly left her; but his love ſtill prevailing, he wrote her the following letter:

" Fair

" Fair Counteſs,

" Your eyes have ſo enthrawled my heart, that amidſt the alarms of war, my thoughts are chained to your beauty; take compaſſion on a King, which none but yourſelf can bring to the ſubmiſſion of a ſupplicant; I own your virtues are great, yet to ſave the life of a monarch what ſhould not one, who is all goodneſs like you do? Let me entreat you then to take compaſſion on the ſuffering of my mind, that I may be reſtored to my former peace, and become pleaſant to my friends, and a terror to the enemies of my country: So in expectation you will relent, I reſt, in hopes of enjoying that bleſſing I ſo earneſtly wiſh for.

Your devoted Lover,

Tho' a KING."

To this letter, after well weighing every circumſtance of it, ſhe ſent the King the following anſwer;

" My Sovereign,

" Could you but conceive what diſturbance your letter hath wrought in my mind, you would ceaſe to afflict me, who ſo highly honours you in all virtuous ways,

but to this matter, without a violation of my honour, cannot condeſcend to pleaſe you, conſidering you are married to a virtuous queen, who loves and honours you; ceaſe then, great ſir, to perſecute me with your love, that cannot be lawfully returned; I am indeed your ſubject, and you may command my life and fortune; but not in a diſhonourable way. So humbly entreating you maturely to weigh theſe things, I remain your afflicted ſubject and ſervant,

SALISBURY."

The King at the receipt of this letter was not a little abaſhed; but concluding time and rich preſents might overcome her, he truſted his confident Lord Montague to bring her to court, in honour of whoſe preſence the King cauſed ſports and paſtimes; and at laſt won ſo much upon her as to dance with him; when at the end of the dance a blue ribbon, which ſhe had for a garter, falling off, the King ſtooped and took it up; at which the Counteſs bluſhed, and the Nobles ſmiled; at which the King ſaid, "Honi Soit Qui Mali Penſe:" vowing that the greateſt of

them ſhould do honour to the ſilken tye, eſtabliſhing his ſon the firſt Knight of the Order of the Garter, confining the number to twenty-ſix, of which himſelf and his ſucceſſors have been ſovereigns to this day.

CHAP. II.

The Birth of the Black Prince; his Wars under his Father in France.——King Edward challenges the French King, and why he refuſes it.

PRrince Edward the Black Prince was born at Greenwich, May 14, 1436; at his birth a blazing ſtar appeared with a fiery tail like a bloody ſword, pointing towards France; and the ſea overflowed its banks in many places, the like having never been ſeen on the coaſt before.

The King brought him up hardy, and at fifteen years old took him to the wars againſt Scotland and France; and the ears of Flanders was ſo taken with him, that he got the Governor of thoſe provinces depoſed, and him placed in his ſtead; this

got the Earl ſo much hated amongſt the common people, that they ſoon after killed him; which for a time hindered the King's affairs, as the Flemings revolted from him; but regarding it not, reſolved by his own power to thruſt his ſword into the bowels of France.

The King being informed that John the French King's ſon had beſieged the caſtle of Agillon in Gaſcoigne, took the Prince and a conſiderable army with him, at whoſe approach the French raiſed the ſiege and fled; after this he paſſed into Normandy, took the city of Hornfleur, and gave the ſpoil to the ſoldiers. Then he took the great and rich city of Caen. and being thus victorious, he preſſed on to the gates of Abevile and St. Vellary; but for want of guides were entangled with the river on one ſide, and the French on the other; to paſs which one Gopla of Greece found out a place ſo to do; but when the King had marched his army thither, he found it defended with twelve thouſand French; nevertheleſs at ebb-tide the King, Prince, and army paſſed over on the other ſide, and a battle enſued; at length the Engliſh prevailing chaſed

the enemy until they come up with the whole French force, which they dared to combat, though ſix times the number. The King ſent a challenge to the French King to ſingle combat; but he excuſed it cunningly, by alledging it was ſent to him by the name of Phillip de Vallois, and not by the title of King of France; and therefore he ſhould betray his royal dignity in accepting of it.

CHAP

CHAP. III.

King Edward with a ſmall army marches into France, and is met by the French King with an hundred thouſand Men. The Battle fought, and the French routed by the Black Prince.

THE French King relying upon his numbers, thinking the Engliſh thus entangled in the heart of his country, he ſhould now gain a battle which would for ever quell the Engliſh claim to the French crown. With theſe hopes he put his army in readtneſs in a ſpacious field near the town of Creſſy. King Edward and the Black Prince were employed in the ſame buſineſs; going from tent to tent, encouraging their men, who ſaid they minded not the diſproportion of numbers, for they would ſoon be leſſoned and brought to confuſion.——The ſignal for battle being given, the French were ſoon put into diſorder by the Engliſh archers, the greateſt part of them being ſlain; and the whole army on one ſide ſo diſordered, that the

Engliſh without mercy put moſt of them to the ſword. This bad ſucceſs did not much diſcourage them, but rallying again they charged on the Prince with great fury; but he ſtoutly reſiſted them, and ſlew great nuubers of them; but as faſt as the ſlain were down, others came up, ſo that the Prince had no breathing time; and ſending to the King to come to his relief, he ſaid, Tell him from me, that he muſt expect no aid; for this ſhall be the day in which he ſhall win honour or loſe his life. When the Prince was informed what the King ſaid, it animated him with freſh hopes of victory, and he redoubled his courage, and fought with undaunted ſpirits, making the French fly laying great part of the army breathleſs on the ground; in the purſuit of the Engliſh encountered a number of the inhabitants of Regmerry, Aubivily, and Roan, who ignorant of the defeat were coming with a large army to join them, ſeven thouſand of whom was ſlain, and the reſt ſaved themſelves by flight; the next day they were charged by the Archbiſhop of Koan, who conducted a ſtrong army, and whom they worſted, killing great num-

bers of them; the French King being forced haſtily to fly away to ſave his own life,

The King and Prince marched through the country without any oppoſition, and begirt the ſtrong town of Calais, with an army of near twenty thouſand men; but finding the paſſages ſtopped, he ſent to challenge the King to battle in the open field, as knowing the town could not hold out.—King Edward ſent him word He never feared to meet him in the field, as to his coſt he had proved; bnt knowing his advantage at that time, he would not give him the ſatisfaction he then required.—On this the French King broke up his army and departed; and the Callaicnians deſpairing of relief, being ſorely oppreſſed with famine, humbled to King Edward, and ſought his mercy; whereupon he commanded that ſix of the inhabitants ſhould come bare-headed and bare-legged with ropes about their necks, and bring the keys of the town and caſtle to him, which they did, The keys he received, but commanded the perſons to be hanged; but at the interceſſion of the

Queen and Prince, they were pardoned; and he made Sir Andrew de Bert, the Lombard Captain of it.

Soon after this Philip de la Vallois, the French King died, and his ſon John was crowned.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

King Edward and the Black Prince return to England in Triumph; and being entertained by the Earl of Kent, the Prince falls in Love with the Earls Daughter.

KIng Edward having ſettled his affairs in France, came to England with the Queen and Prince, and landing at Dover, they dined with the Earl of Kent.—At dinner the prince fixed his eyes on Joan the Earl's daughter, whoſe great beauty had cauſed her to be called, The Fair Maid of Kent.—This lady ſoon captivated our prince, who not knowing how his father would take it, he being about to match him to ſome foreign princeſs, for that time bridled his paſſion all he could: yet not ſo much but the Lady ſaw ſhe was not indifferent to him; and dinner being over, he and his father ſat out for the court.

Love having thus wounded him, he could not be at reſt till he had told her his paſſion; eſpecially knowing the wars

with France, would ſoon require his preſence, and ſhe fall into the hands of another lover; and ſo going back to the Earl's houſe, he there found her alone, and entreated her to take a walk with him in the garden, having a ſecret there to communicate to her; at the ſame time aſſuring her on his honour, that he intended no harm. Upon this aſſertion ſhe conſented, and after a turn or two, they retired into a cool harbour, where he thus

addreſſed her, Ah lady, it is in your power to eaſe the doubts and fears that labour in my mind. — I wiſh it may replied the lady ſmiling, and not without bluſhing; but I cannot be your phyſician unleſs I know your grief.—Ah, fair lady, ſaid he, ſince I firſt ſet my eyes on your beauty,

my heart has been captivated; and I take this opportunity to know from your own lips whether you will relieve me with your love.—Alas, my Lord, replied the lady, for that love which is in my power to give you wall not pine.——Moſt kind Lady, ſaid he, for the love I pretend is chaſte, and it is you above all the queens of the earth, that I endeavour to makhappy.—O conſider, ſaid ſhe how dangerous it is for me to entertain your love; ſince the King may break out on my family to their ruin.—Doubt it not ſaid he I will ſtand between, and rather than any harm ſhall befal you, I will periſh. So with mutual vows of conſtancy they parted.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

The Black Prince with his Army wins many Places in France; takes the French King and his Son Priſoners; returns to England, and marries the Fair Maid of Kent.

THE truce made with France expiring, the Prince was ſent with an army into Gaſcony, where landing, he breathed ſuch terror in that province, that the French grew heartleſs, ſo that many towns and caſtles fell into his hands; this made the new king John haſten his army into the field; and accompanied by his youngeſt ſon, he marched towards Poictors, where the Engliſh army lay, and the battle began with great fury. The French King had divided his army in four parts who each came in turn, and fought with great valour; but the thick ſhot of the Engliſh arrows gauling their horſes, they threw their riders. This ſoon put the cavalry into diſorder, and they were trodden to death by their own friends. The

French King's diviſion was ſomewhat better ordered, and perſormed wonders; but the Black Prince's diviſion being ſtationed againſt it, the French were at laſt obliged to give way and fly; in the purſuit the French King and his ſon were taken priſoners, and being brought to the Prince, he commanded that none ſhould inſult them; providing for them honourable attendants, and every other neceſſary fitting their ſtation; ſo that King John ſaid, never priſoner met with ſo noble a conqueror; and he thought himſelf happy in falling into ſuch hands. —In this battle a great number was ſlain, and ten thouſand ſoldiers taken priſoners, and the ſpoils of the field the Prince generouſly gave to his army; ſo that when it was divided, there was not a poor man among them.

After this the Prince marched with his army and priſoners to Bourdeaux, to give an account of his victory; nor was he wanting to ſend a letter to his fair miſtreſs, who had often bedewed her roſy cheeks for his abſence. The words were as follows:

"Faireſt

"Faireſt of Creatures,

"I let you know that fortune has favoured me with ſucceſs, and has been kind to let me reap freſh laurels with my ſword, that I may lay them at your feet; which ſhall be as ſpeedily as the great affairs I have in hand will permit. In the mean time, not doubting your conſtancy and love, I am your faithful and obedient ſervant,

EDWARD."

The Lady joyfully received this letter, and wrote him a loving anſwer; deſiring him, if he had any compaſſion for her life, not to hazard himſelf too far in the hands of his enemies. The Prince received with pleaſure this freſh aſſurance of his Lady's love, and with joy haſted to England to comfort her, bringing with him his royal priſoners; who were ſent to the caſtle at Windſor, and there royally entertained, the King and Prince often viſiting them; which noble uſage begat a laſting love and unity between them.—The Prince being impatient to delay his marriage, and one day finding the King in a good humour,

he fell down on his knees, and begged as a reward for all his toils and hazards, leave to espouse the Earl of Kent's daughter; The King, though somewhat amazed at the request, granted it; and they were soon after married with great pomp and magnificence.

The French King and his son having been four years prisoners in England, made some overtures to King Edward for their release; but Charles the French King's eldest son, having gotten the regency into his own hands, would not agree with his father; whereupon King Edward with the Black Prince, sailed over with an army, laid waste many parts of the country, and soon brought the regents to petition for a peace, which was concluded on the following terms:

1. That the French King ſhould pay four hundred thouſand pounds for his ranſom.

That no King of France ſhould aid the Scots againſt England in any invaſion, nor the Engliſh aſſiſt the Flemings in any war againſt France.

3. That the King of England ſhould freely enjoy the territories of Gaſcoign, Gyan, with the precincts, territories, forts caſtles, and towns thereunto belonging; alſo the cities of Poictors and Peregos; the Earldoms of Pigrot, Poitors, and Guyeus; the cities of Limoges, Tharbes, Guares, Agu, Angoloſom, Augumois, Ryurhc, and Conrus; the Lordſhips of Xantoigne, Crumeſen, Hames, Ony, and Montreal; with the ſeignories of Calais, Margate, Sandgate, and Cologne.

CHAP. VI.

The Black Prince overthrows the Army in Spain and France; reſtores the depoſed King of Caſtile to his Throne; with the Death of the Black Prince and King Edward.

THE Prince's fame rang all over the world, and Peter King of Caſtile,

being overthrown in battle by his brother Henry, aſſiſted by the French King, he ſent to the Black Prince to emplore his aid. The Prince knowing him to be the lawful ſovereign, raiſed an army, went and conquered his enemies, reinſtating him in the quiet poſſeſſion of his kingdom; and then came back again to England.

This Prince, who was mild in peace, and fierce in war, ſoon after ſickened and died; and King Edward appointed his ſon Richard Prince of Wales; but he being young, the Duke of Lancaſter was appointed Regent till he come of age; and the King being wore out with age and grief for the death of the Black Prince, he died, Ind was buried at Weſtminſter.

FINIS.